

opportunity to re-examine the religious and political persecutions and deep yearning of the human spirit which emboldened the Pilgrims to set sail for America. They sought an opportunity to worship as they thought fitting, to engage themselves in self-determination and the utilization of individual gifts for the common purpose of building community. They yearned for a government which would be best described by an American president 243 years after they sailed from Plymouth, a government in which the common people were involved; a government of the people, for the people, and by the people.

Yet, strange-seeming upon first consideration, these same Pilgrims who were willing to leave hearth and homeland for a wild and distant country viewed themselves as strangers and foreigners on the earth. As people of God, they sought with great diligence to live as people of faith in an often faithless world. These Pilgrims held values which transcended the simple "be a good person, be nice to your neighbor" values in human relationships. These values demanded much more of the individual and of society than simply "being nice"; these values demanded one's life commitment to the upbuilding of the kingdom of God. It is no wonder historians who trace the Euro-American pilgrimage from its inception to the present day call the experiment of the Pilgrims by the name "Zion in the Wilderness". There was purpose and commitment in what the Pilgrims set out to accomplish. Their journey was to a better country!

The Church today is called to remember it is still on that same journey that set sail the Pilgrims so long ago.

The Church exists today as resident aliens, an adventurous colony in a society of unbelief. As a society of unbelief, Western culture is devoid of a sense of journey, of adventure, because it lacks belief in much more than the cultivation of an ever-shrinking horizon of self-preservation and self-expression.

The ancient Hebrew patriarchs, the disciples of Jesus of Nazareth, the Pilgrims of the seventeenth century, the visionaries who held "these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness", the founders of this visionary congregation—First Presbyterian Church of Peoria, IL—160 years ago, all were traveling the road to a better country. They had, as the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King has said, "a dream."

To tell the truth, that dream, those visions, have taken on the fearful characteristics of a nightmare. The nation—the better country—the Pilgrim people sought to discover and build upon has drifted loose from its moral moorings into a sea of self-centeredness, a Devil's Triangle of you-do-your-thing-and-I'll-do-mine-and-that's-all-that-matters-anyway boorishness that shakes the very foundation of our society.

The home of the brave and land of the free in the 1990s—fifteen generations after the Pilgrims landed on the Massachusetts shore—has become the home of the fearful and the land of the imprisoned. America today has more citizens in prison, per capita, than any other nation in the free world. The experience of being "free" is what many do not experience!

We have winked at the discord in our nation. We have turned away from taking personal responsibility to become change agents involved in the creation of a better country. We have come to blame the three branches of our federal government for our troubles, making scapegoats of the very people we have elected to lead us. It is hard to hear and harder again to admit, but many of us do not

experience freedom as the Pilgrims sought to create to. We are fearful instead. Our everyday lives point to this truth.

Consider our overstocked medicine cabinets, burglar alarms, vast ghettos, and drug culture. Eighteen-hundred New Yorkers are murdered every year by their fellow citizens in a city whose police department is larger than the standing army of many nations.

We have become fearful of one another. We seem to have lost our way on that journey to a better country. Where is the vision of the Pilgrim people? Why do we cower in fear and confusion, choosing to attempt to outrun the darkness rather than turn and say with conviction, "Enough!". Those people of varied races and religious tradition and ages who have taken such a stand against corruption in their individual communities have made a difference, they have shined a light into the darkness and recaptured a vision of a better country. May God bless them, and our native land!

The time has come again for the people of God to become a Pilgrim people! The time has come again for the people of God to say what they believe, and to set sail on a journey that will lead us all to a better country. What am I saying? Leave America for another place?

Not at all! Despite her flaws, America is yet the greatest nation on earth, for people still risk their lives to make this land their home. Hear me now! I am calling us to recapture the vision of a better country. And to lift up that vision. I am calling us to work together, beginning right here in our own community, to shape a better country so that the little children around us can grow up in a better world. I am calling us to be done with the idiocy of self-centered pettiness that only desecrates, divides, and denigrates the World of God. I am calling us to catch the vision of a better country, and to lift it high in the name of our blessed Lord, Jesus Christ, who has already journeyed ahead of us, calling, "Follow me!"

How do we do this? How do we answer this call? We begin by doing away with the habit of blaming others for our troubles. We become more proactive and less reactive. I say this to you in response to the challenge before us:

1. Pray without ceasing that God will use you and this congregation to build a better country. Every great change in the nation began in the minds and hearts and spirits of the people who helped make this country great. Change may be facilitated "out there", but it must begin in here, in the mind and heart and spirit of the individual. And in the home towns of America.

2. Pray to forgive those who divide and deride; counsel them to repent and turn to the Lord, so their vision may be outward and upward rather than inward and downward. Remember John Kennedy's words: "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country!". Then do it.

3. Open your eyes and your mind to see where your unique, personal gifts can be used to help make life better. For example, offer to ring a bell at a Salvation Army kettle, join hands with others at work in one of our city soup kitchens or other missions, assist as a hospital volunteer, give blood: one pint of that vital fluid may save a life, sign on the line on the back of your driver's license and commit yourself to becoming an organ donor (hundred of thousands of lives could be saved annually if more of us would do this), visit the hospitalized, run an errand for one who is ill, comfort the afflicted, challenge the comfortable, teach in our Sunday School. You get the idea. The need is great; open your eyes and minds and respond.

4. Contact our elected representatives and urge them to remember and act on the words

of our sixteenth president, that our government may be of, by and for the people. Rather than deride the people you elected to represent you, work with them to shape a brighter, better future for all who call America home.

5. Live each day as if it were your last, devoting energy to those profoundly simple acts of discipleship we discover by lifting up faith, hope and love. And, in that instant, make a difference for good and to God's glory in the life of someone else. Do you begin to realize what a radical difference you can initiate simply by lifting up the values and mores which helped build this country, those aspects of national character which begin on our hearths and in our hearts as we teach our children about God and goodness and grace?

Yes, Christians are always in search of a better country. Those who take their faith seriously endeavor to move beyond a feel-good religion to a follow-Jesus faith. The choice, really, is up to you. You can sit morosely by, captured by a culture of complaint and complacency, or you can let the living God fill your sails with the wind of His Spirit, empowering you to move forward on that journey to a better country.

The America of tomorrow awaits your decision to act. Decide wisely, pilgrim, for you touch the trembling, fragile future with your individual hands and hearts. May God bless America. May God bless you. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF LIBERATION OF SURVIVORS STAMP

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 1995

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, this morning I joined with Senator CARL LEVIN, Postmaster General Runyan, and Postal Governor David Fineman to present a framed enlargement of the liberation of survivors stamp to the U.S. Holocaust Museum.

It is appropriate that we are presenting this stamp this year, as we observe the 50th anniversary of the liberation of the concentration camps by U.S. Armed Forces. This Holocaust stamp pays tribute to the many thousands of American soldiers whose considerable self-sacrifice and heroism as liberators of the death camps led to the disclosure of the truth, and to the enormity of such crimes against the Jewish people and humanity. The liberators' selfless dedication will never be forgotten, just as those who perished will never be forgotten.

Year after year there are fewer witnesses remaining among us. The efforts of institutions like the U.S. Holocaust Museum and the U.S. Postal Service in commemorating this historical event will help ensure that the future generations will not forget the Holocaust. We must remember that we must fight every day in the war against ignorance and bigotry. It is our responsibility to remain forever vigilant, as we pursue justice for ourselves and for others throughout the world who face oppression.

A TRIBUTE TO HARDY L. BROWN

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 1995

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to bring to your attention today the fine

work and outstanding public service of Hardy Brown. Hardy, the first African-American man to serve two terms as vice president and then two terms as president of the Board of Education of the San Bernardino City Unified School District, is retiring after 12 remarkable years of service with the board. He will be honored for his service at a dinner in his honor on December 14.

Hardy Brown was administered the oath of office for the board of education on December 6, 1983, and was elected vice president of the board for the 1985–86 school year. Shortly thereafter, he was elected as the first black male president of the board and served for both the 1987–88 and 1988–89 school years. In addition, he has served as a representative to the CSBA Delegate Assembly for the 1990–91 and 1992–93 school years, and has served CSBA in many diverse leadership roles.

The San Bernardino City Unified School District is the ninth largest in California with over 44,000 students, 60 percent of whom are minorities. Through his service to the board of education, Hardy Brown has been a thoughtful and dedicated advocate for providing equal educational opportunities to all children in our community. He is also well known and respected by community leaders, parents, clergy, business people, political leaders, representatives of higher education, and civil rights groups.

Hardy Brown has a great deal of experience with multiethnic, multicultural, and varied socioeconomic groups. His enthusiasm, commitment, and expertise in alternative programs addressing at-risk students, guidance, dropout prevention, school safety, and vocational education has made him particularly influential and well respected. Most importantly, his leadership style encourages creative and innovative ideas to deal with the greatest challenges facing education and society today.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, Hardy Brown's family, and many friends in recognizing his extraordinary work and selfless public service. His dedication to education and making a real difference in the lives of children is an example worthy of emulation by all of us. It is only fitting that the House pay tribute to Hardy Brown today.

TRIBUTE TO PERRY ANDERSON, JR.

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY II

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 1995

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Mr. Perry Anderson, Jr., who is currently the police commissioner of the Cambridge Police Department in Cambridge, MA.

Commissioner Anderson has led a successful and distinguished career. He worked for the Miami Police Department for many years. During his tenure he rose from the ranks of police officer to the appointment of chief of police before retiring in 1991. His steadfastness is seen through his many police and executive positions. Most notably was his position as major in charge of the community relations section and deputy and assistant chief in charge of the criminal investigation division.

Commissioner Anderson's dedication to the Police Force is truly commendable. He has re-

ceived great recognition for founding and implementing reverse sting operations in Miami, developing methods to curtail civil disturbances, and has authored various texts on sound managerial concepts and programs. Commissioner Anderson is also the recipient of the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in the armed services. In July 1992, he was elected the national president of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives.

I applaud the accomplishments of Commissioner Perry L. Anderson and would like to extend my congratulations and best wishes for his many years of service to safeguard others. As a paragon of leadership he has enabled many people to live with a bettered sense of security.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JOHN ROARK ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 1995

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish Mr. John Roark a happy, and well deserved retirement. John is a trusted friend, and I always welcome the opportunity to talk with him about issues affecting the 19th Congressional District of Illinois.

Throughout his professional career John has worked hard to help improve his community. For 3 years he owned his own business, has 13 years teaching experience, was director of Organization for American Federation of Teachers for Illinois and Wisconsin, and has worked with the Macon-Dewitt Job Training Program Administration [JTPA] for 17 years. John will retire as the executive director of the Macon-Dewitt JTPA, and I am proud to join with his family and friends in celebrating his decades of community service.

Mr. Speaker, John Roark is a friend of many in central Illinois. He will be missed at the Macon-Dewitt JTPA, but I am confident that John will continue to discover new ways to help his community during his retirement. I want to take this opportunity to once again thank John for his decades of commitment to the people of the State of Illinois and wish him a healthy and memorable retirement.

A SALUTE TO NOVELLA LYONS OF PHILADELPHIA

HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 1995

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Mrs. Novella Lyons on the occasion of her retirement from the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare and to congratulate her on her many years of service to the Philadelphia community.

In 1960, Mrs. Novella Lyons began her tenure with the department of public welfare. She has proudly held several positions within the department from repayment adjuster to income maintenance caseworker. In 1989, Mrs. Lyons received the Employee of the Year Award and has since served as chairperson

for the SECA campaign. Mrs. Lyons is an outstanding individual who should be commended for her contributions to the Philadelphia community.

Mrs. Lyons has also played a vital role in many programs in the Philadelphia community as an active member of the Cnaan Baptist Church, where she began working with the social service committee and the breast cancer support group. She was instrumental in organizing the breast cancer support group where her primary goals were to provide educational resources, international workshops, and spiritual uplifting. Through Mrs. Lyons' efforts, over 100 women have been reached throughout the Philadelphia area.

I wish to join today with the department of public welfare, Mrs. Lyons' family and friends in recognizing her for her many years of service with the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare and the Philadelphia community. I wish her health, happiness, and prosperity in her retirement years. It is well deserved.

TRIBUTE TO SALLY HAVICE FOR SERVICE TO THE ABC SCHOOL BOARD

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 1995

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Ms. Sally Havice as she steps down from the presidency of the ABC School Board. Sally was first elected to the school board in 1989 and was reelected to a second term in 1993. As board president, she chaired several committees, including the School Safety Committee and the District Goals Committee. During her leadership, she initiated a code of conduct for the members of the board.

Sally has devoted much of her life to improving herself and giving to others through education. After attending business college, she had a successful career in municipal government. She later returned to school to pursue a bachelor's degree and teaching credential that enabled her to realize her life-long ambition of becoming a teacher. She earned two associate in arts degrees from Cerritos College; one in social studies and the other in Spanish. She went on to receive her bachelor's degree in English and a master's degree in linguistics, with doctoral studies at USC and the University of Hawaii. During her active professional and academic career, she raised three sons: Edward, Raul, and Joseph. She is also grandmother to seven children.

For the last 22 years, Sally has been a professor of English at Cerritos College. She teaches English composition and literature, as well as speech communication. She also served as interim assistant dean of liberal arts and community liaison for the cultural arts. Her work on campus also has included participation on numerous committees such as the Citizen's Resource Advisory, Cerritos College Faculty Association Executive Board, and the faculty senate, which selected her after her first term as outstanding faculty senator.

Sally's involvement in the community has been extensive and impressive. She helped to implement the cultural performing arts after-school program. This unique music and dance